

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for playing a video summary, comprising:

a signal receiving unit configured to receive a signal including video data video data and meta data, the video data including each frame in time series, the meta data including a time and an event name, the time corresponding to one frame of the video data, the event name representing contents of the one frame of the video data;

a video data memory configured to sequentially store the video data;

a meta data memory configured to sequentially store the meta data;

a timing decision unit configured to decide whether the event name of the meta data coincides with one of a plurality of event names previously stored in a decision table, and, if the event name of the meta data coincides with one of the plurality of event names in the decision table, to generate a video summary generation request by referring to the signal;

a summary method indication unit configured to indicate a generation method of the video summary;

a video summary generation unit configured to generate the video summary from the video data by using the generation method in response to the video summary generation request; and

a video summary play unit configured to play the video summary;

wherein said video summary generation unit selects a next event for a play position of frames of which the video summary was generated, from said meta data memory, determines a level of the next event by referring to an event level definition table previously storing a level of each event, and compares the level of the next event with a threshold level of an important event,

if the level of the next event is above or equal to the threshold level,
wherein said video summary generation unit extracts a time corresponding to the next
event from said meta data memory, and generates period data of a video summary in which
the time is a center timing,

if the level of the next event is below the threshold level or after the period data of the
video summary is generated,

wherein said video summary generation unit selects the next event from said meta
data memory, and repeatedly executes generation processing of the video summary until the
selected event coincides with a recording position of the latest frame in said video data
memory.

Claims 2-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim [[10]] 1, wherein,
said video summary play unit extracts frames corresponding to the period data from
said video data memory, and plays the frames as the video summary.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,
said summary method indication unit indicates a play time of the video summary to
catch up to the latest video data stored in said video data memory.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,
said summary method indication unit indicates information to specify contents of a
program in the video data.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,
said timing decision unit calculates a change quantity of characteristic of the video
data in time series, and determines a timing to generate a video summary from the video data
when the change quantity is above a predetermined value.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,
said timing decision unit determines a timing to generate a video summary from the
video data when said summary method indication unit indicates change of the generation
method of the video summary.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,
if said timing decision unit generates the video summary generation request while said
video summary play unit is playing the video summary,
said video summary generation unit generates a new video summary from the video
data stored after the previous video data from which the video summary was generated.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein,
said video summary play unit changes playing from the video summary to the new
video summary when the playing of one scene of the video summary is completed or when
the playing of the video summary passes a predetermined time.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for playing a video summary,
comprising:

receiving a signal including video data video data and meta data, the video data
including each frame in time series, the meta data including a time and an event name, the
time corresponding to one frame of the video data, the event name representing contents of
the one frame;

sequentially storing the video data in a video data memory;
sequentially storing the meta data in a meta data memory;
deciding whether the event name of the meta data coincides with one of a plurality of
event names previously stored in a decision table,

generating a video summary generation request if the event name of the meta data
coincides with one of the plurality of event names in the decision table by referring to the
signal;

indicating a generation method of the video summary;
generating the video summary from the video date by using the generation method in
response to the video summary generation request; [[and]]

playing the video summary;
selecting a next event for a play position of frames of which the video summary was
generated, from the meta data memory;

determining a level of the next event by referring to an event level definition table
previously storing a level of each event,
comparing the level of the next event with a threshold level of an important event;
if the level of the next event is above or equal to the threshold level,
extracting a time corresponding to the next event from the meta data memory;
generating period data of a video summary in which the time is a center timing;
if the level of the next event is below the threshold level or after the period data of the
video summary is generated,
selecting the next event from the meta data memory; and
repeatedly executing generation processing of the video summary until the selected
event coincides with a recording position of the latest frame in the video data memory.

Claim 20 (Canceled).